

PRATHAM BOOKS
A Book in Every Child's Hand

Level 3

Sister, Sister, Where Does the Sun Go at Night?

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Illustrator: Greystroke



Sister, sister, I wonder...
What do you wonder, little brother,
What do you wonder?
I wonder, I wonder,
Where the sun goes at night.
Where do you think, little brother,
Where do you think?
I think, I think...
Tell me, little brother,
What do you think?



I think
That maybe, a demon.
The terrible black demon
Of Darkness
Eats up the sun each night
For dinner.
See how the blue sky, at sunset,
Is stained red with his blood?



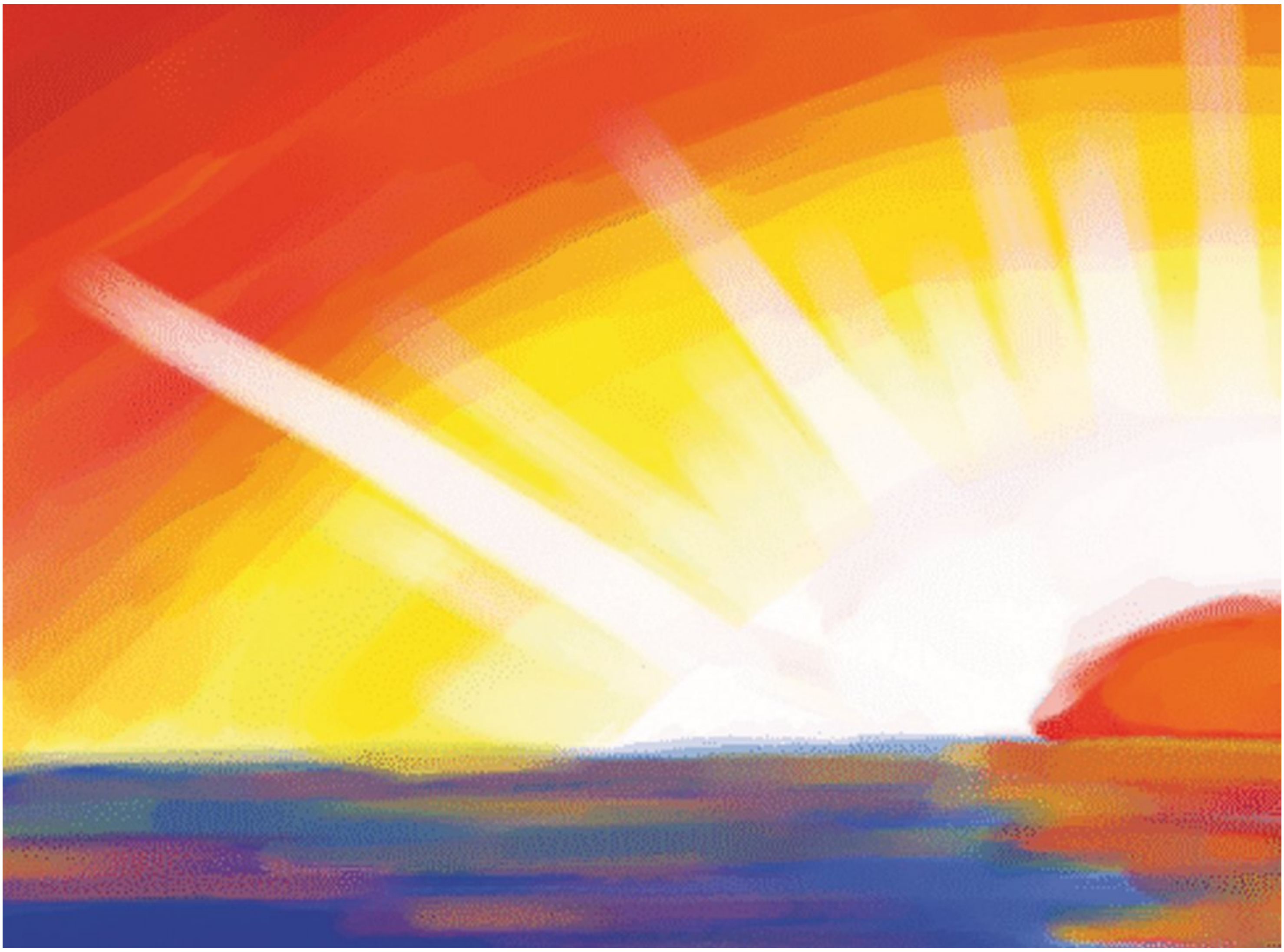
But the sun
The glorious brave shining golden sun
He fights the Darkness demon
All night, every night
And by morning,
He’s whole again and back to rule.
That’s where I think the sun goes at night.
Into the mouth of a monster
After a terrible fight.
I’m clever, aren’t I, sister?



Oh yes you are, little brother, oh yes you are
And maybe you are right, too...
But in the books that I have read
That is not what they said.
Then what did they say, sister,
What did they say?
What do you think, little brother,
What do you think?
I think, I think...
Tell me, little brother, what do you think?



I think
That maybe, while it is night
Here on earth,
It is a glorious day in
The ocean's darkest depths.
And the mermaids come dancing out
Of their undersea caves
To frolic with the sharks.



We have seen it ourselves
When we went to Mumbai last summer.
Remember
How the sun lets go of the sky
Each evening at dusk
And slides soundlessly into the sea?
That’s were I think the sun goes at night
To flood the underwater
With golden light.
I’m clever, aren’t I sister?



Of course you are, little brother,
Of course you are
And maybe you are right, too...
But in the books that I have read
That is not what they said.
Then what did they say, sister,
What did they say?
What do you think, little brother,
What do you think?



I think, I think...
Tell me, little brother, what do you think?
I think
That maybe there is no mystery.
That maybe the sun is just like Father.
He goes home tired each night
After a long day
At work.



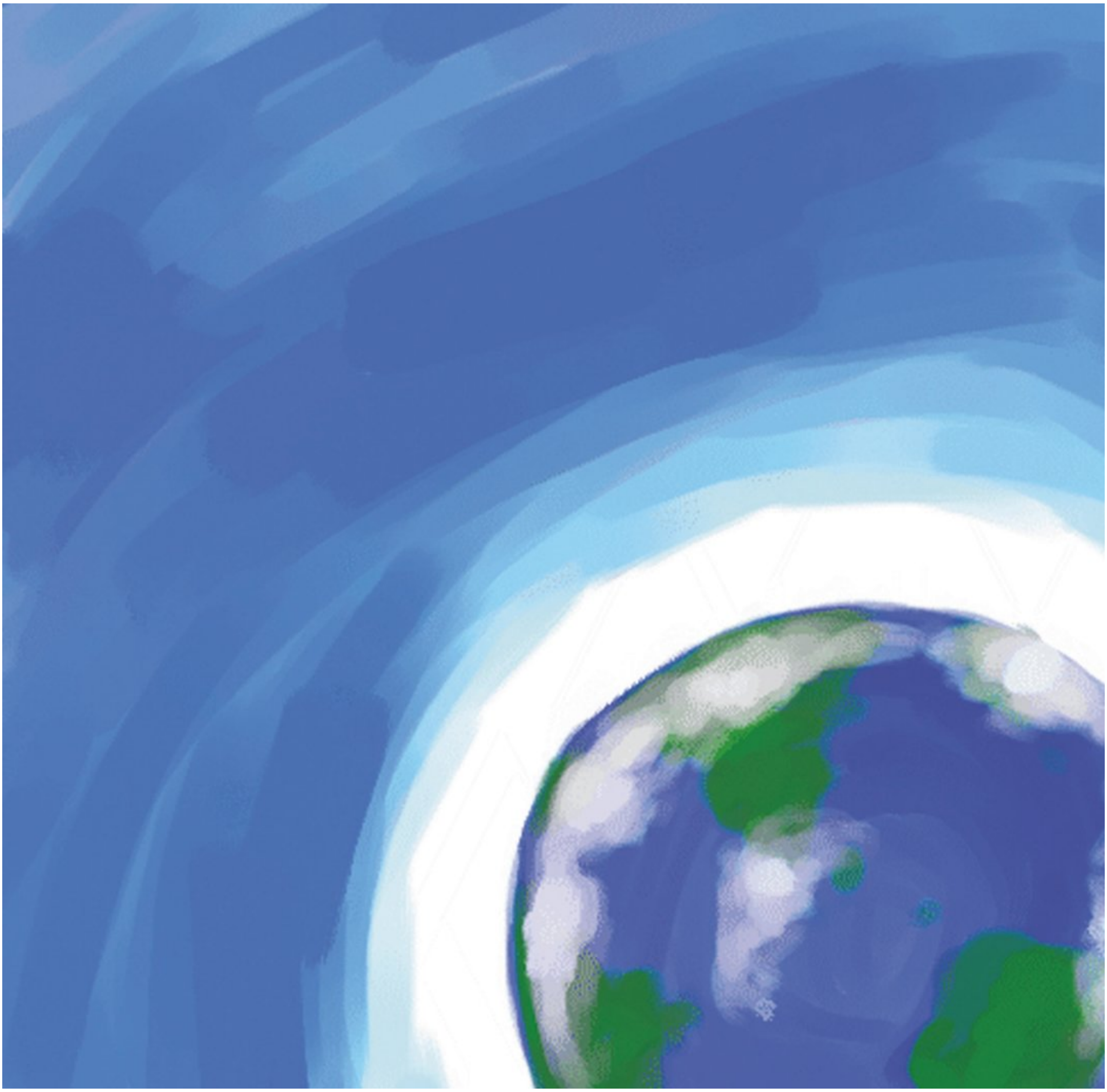
And his wife, like Mother,
Fusses over him, shushes the kids,
Covers him with a night-dark
blanket of stars,
And hopes his snoring
will not keep her awake all night.



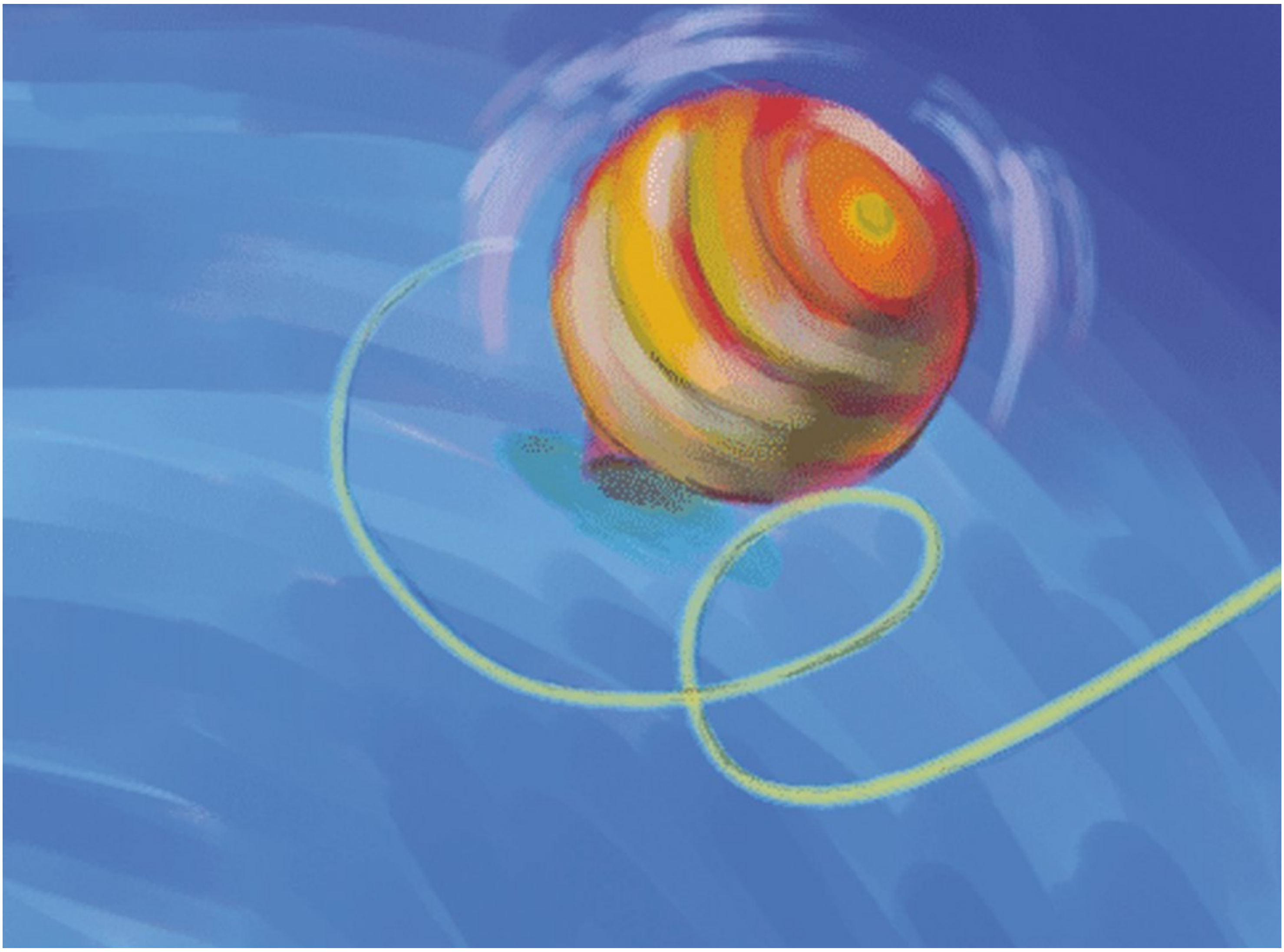
And every morning, the sun
Shrugs off his star-blanket,
Paints the dawn sky red with his sleepy eyes
And gets back to work.
That’s where I think the sun goes at night.
Home to bed until it is light.
I’m clever, aren’t I, sister?



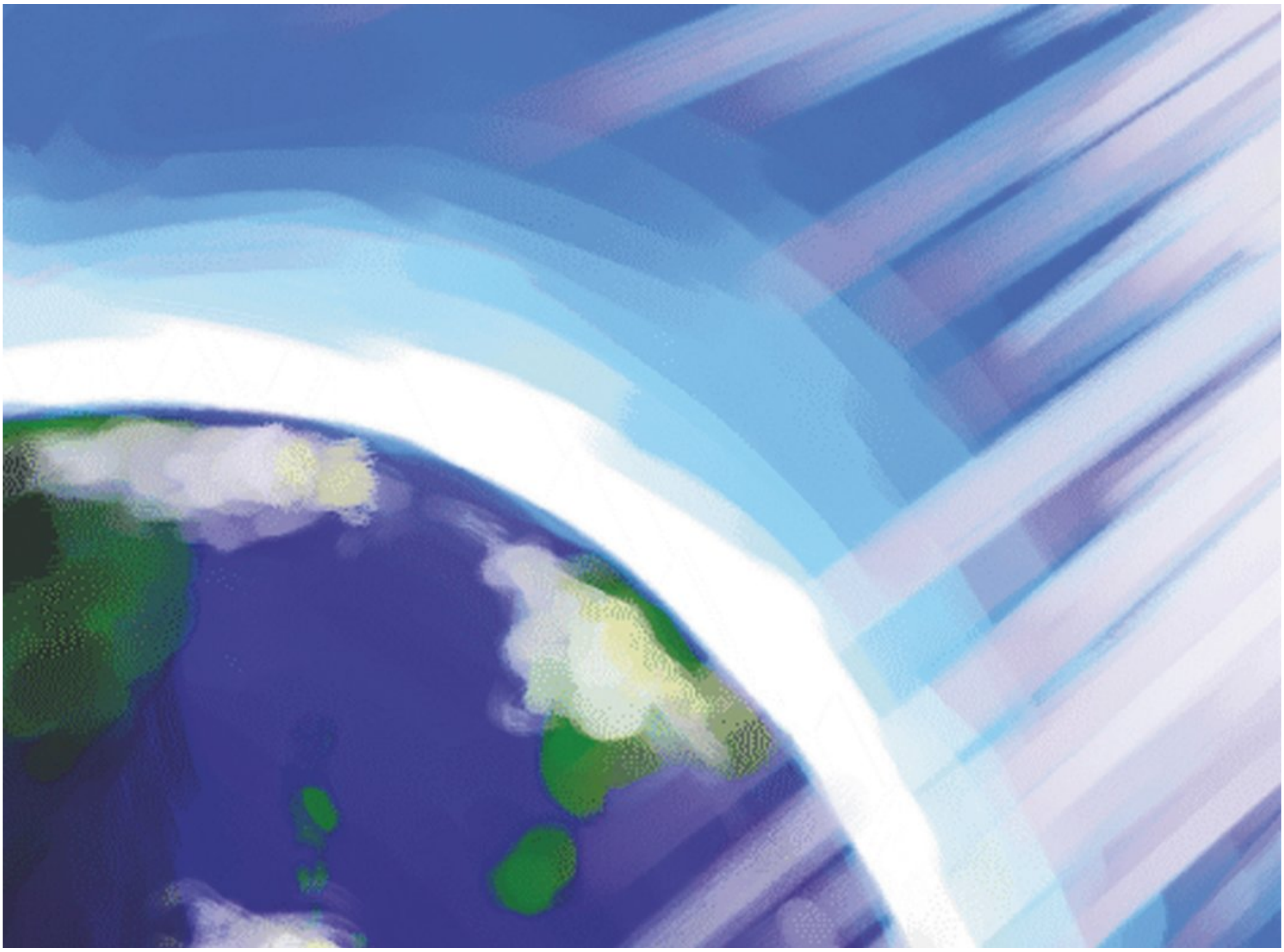
I know you are, little brother, I know you are,
And maybe you’re right, too...
But in the books that I have read
That is not what they said.
Then what did they say, sister,
What did they say?
Come here, little brother,
I’ll tell you what they said.
They said, they said...
Tell me, sister, what did they say?



They said
That the earth is like a ball
That the ball goes around the sun
Spinning like the red top
Mother got you from the Saturday market,
But slower.



And they said
Every spin of the earth
Is as long as a day
And a night.
I asked about the sun, sister,
I asked about the sun.
I am coming to that, little brother,
Be patient now.



They said
When our part of the earth
The half where we live
Is turned towards the sun
We have day.
And when the other half
Is turned towards the sun
And ours
Is turned away
We have night.



They said
That’s where the sun goes at night
To bathe the other half in glorious light.
Can it be true, sister, can it be true?
I can’t say, little brother, I can’t say.
But in all the books that I have read
That is what they said.

FIND OUT MORE!

Where does the sun go at night?

The earth is a sphere that revolves around the sun, along with the seven other planets of the solar system. One revolution of the earth around the sun takes one calendar year.

While it is going around the sun, the earth also spins on its own axis. Each ‘spin’ takes 24 hours, that is, a day and a night.

Whichever part of the earth is facing the sun has day. At the same time, the other half of the earth (the part turned away from the sun) has night. Then the earth slowly spins around and the half that was in darkness (that is, the half that was turned away from the sun) now faces the sun. So this half has day, and the other half, which turned away from the sun has night. So, in reality, the sun does not really go anywhere at night!

Try this experiment!

To understand how the earth's rotation causes day and night, try this simple exercise.

You need:
A small rubber ball
A big torch
Some felt pens
A friend

What to do:
Imagine that the rubber ball is the earth. Using the felt pens, draw the map of the world on the rubber ball. Now, imagine that the torch is the sun. Ask your friend to switch on the torch.

Place the ball (the earth) directly in the path of the torch beam (sunlight), so that India is facing the sun. Turn the ball around slowly. What do you see? When India is facing the sun, the Americas are in darkness.

As India begins to turn away from the sun, Europe and Africa come into the ‘sunlight’. Then, as the ‘earth’ continues to turn, the Americas come into the light and India becomes dark.

Keep turning the ball till India faces the sun again. This is what happens every time the earth turns around on its axis. During each rotation, India (and every other place on earth) has one day and one night.

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Sister, Sister, Where Does the Sun Go at Night?
(English)

Little Brother's inquisitive mind is always full of questions for Big Sister. He knows Big Sister has all the answers, because she is always reading one big fat book or another. In this book, Little Brother wonders where the sun goes at night. Does he just go to sleep after a long day at work, or does he sink down into the ocean deep to make it daylight for the mermaids who frolic there?

This is a Level 3 book for children who are ready to read on their own.

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